

**BRIDGE TEAM**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Meeting Attendees

Al Avant  
Dan Holderman, PE  
Tom Drda, PE  
Donna Dancausse  
Bill Goodwin, PE

Dave Henderson, PE  
Cecil Jones, PE  
Neil Lassiter, Jr., PE  
Greg Perfetti, PE  
Mike Robinson, PE

Brian Hanks, PE  
Njoroge Wainaina, PE  
Jay Bennett, PE  
Norma Smith

1. Closeout Reports on Completed BT Work Group Efforts

A Bridge Team Working Group Executive Summary for each of the completed initiatives was given to BT members and discussed. During these discussions it was decided that an update, explaining progress to date, should be provided at the next Operations Staff Meeting. Mr. Perfetti agreed to pursue this.

***Develop Overarching Program Goals***

Mr. Perfetti mentioned that the Highway Leadership Team asked him to explore whether the BT's Goals were similar to, and consistent with, those shown on the Executive Dashboard.

Through discussions with Mr. Ken Pace it was determined that a Bridge Condition is displayed on the Executive Dashboard as the % of bridges in good condition. A bridge is considered to be in good condition if the Level of Service for Deck, Substructure and Superstructure are all greater than or equal to 6. After discussion and in recognition that Bridge Condition, as defined, is also affected by preservation and maintenance, the Goals were deemed to compliment the Dashboard. No further modifications to the Goals were proposed.

After further discussion Structure Design and Bridge Management agreed to track the Goals performance annually, with updates taking place around July 1 of each year. Mr. Lassiter noted that this information will be useful to help strategically identify and prioritize projects for programming.

Mr. Perfetti committed to updating the Executive Summary to include: a more complete description of bridge facts in the opening paragraph and the plan for yearly updating.

### ***Sub Regional Tier Design Guidelines***

Mr. Bennett informed the BT that full implementation of the Guidelines will be made for the 2012-2014 projects (i.e., planning, design and construction). For approximately ten projects let in 2008 and 2009, changes were made to plans prior to let which resulted in substantial savings. There are also 19 more projects currently being considered for change prior to let.

It was also noted that Field Scoping Meetings will start with the 2013/2014 bridges. Mr. Goodwin stated that Field Scoping Meetings will be held in early 2009 for two trial projects in Division 2.

Mr. Bennett committed to revising the Executive Summary to reflect implementation activities and cost savings.

### ***Reexamine Current TIP/Update Process of Estimating Project Cost***

Mr. Goodwin mentioned STIP project selection additions for FY 2014 and FY215 had been made after receiving input from Divisions, and that the new spreadsheet process was well received.

Mr. Goodwin also mentioned that recently let bridge project data was compiled to determine Existing SF Construction Cost values for Interstate, US/NC, and Secondary route bridges. These values were used and modified according to site or existing bridge conditions. These values will be tracked and adjusted before each STIP update.

Mr. Avant noted that ROW costs were still being estimated as a percent of construction costs.

### ***Update Bridge Preservation Program***

Mr. Drda mentioned that annual bridge preservation funding was increased to \$5 million, program activities had been defined, a project prioritization and selection process had been developed, and that a programmatic process for NEPA compliance had been developed. He suggested that, in the future, a strategic management tool capable of weighing the cost effectiveness of strategies should be developed.

### ***Archiving on Structure Design Unit's Home Page***

Mr. Perfetti asked all team members to review a proposed format for archiving the completed initiatives and provide comments or suggestions for changes. A BT link on the Structures home page will be developed for this, meeting minutes, membership, etc.

## 2. Status Reports on Current BT Work Group Efforts

### ***Alternate Materials Policy and Construction Guidelines for Drainage Pipe***

Mr. Jones and Mr. Hanks discussed the progress of the Drainage Subgroup. Internal meetings with group members have taken place as well as one meeting with representatives from each pipe industry. Standards, Fill Height Tables and Specifications are being updated. Input from producers is being solicited to assist in the updates.

### ***Permit Requirements and Project Commitments***

Mr. Goodwin stated that Greg Thorpe and Ellis Powell held a meeting with DOT personnel in May. Issues in four main categories were compiled: construction, design, global and non-environmental. Subsequently, Mr. Thorpe developed a survey for distribution to other states. This survey was deemed too large by AASHTO unless it was subdivided or converted to a web survey. The latter is being pursued with assistance from IT.

After discussion, the BT agreed that there are some shorter term issues should be pursued in the interim. Pile Jetting and Moratoriums surfaced as candidates. Mr. Wainaina agreed to select a lead from the GEU for the Pile Jetting Working Group. A potential outcome could be identification of locations where jetting is admissible. Rob Ayers (FHWA) was suggested to be included in the Working Group. Mr. Goodwin will discuss PDEA representation with Greg Thorpe. A decision was not made for Moratoriums.

### ***Funding Options for Improving the Bridge Program***

Mr. Avant distributed and gave an overview of the Bridge Program Expansion recommendations that Calvin Leggett delivered to the BOT. Subsequently, approval was given for PE Funding for an extra 40 bridges in the first year and 80 in the second year. At the end of the period funding availability would be evaluated for further program expansion.

Mr. Goodwin explained that 40 projects would be accelerated from 2014 to 2013, and all currently selected 2015's would be accelerated to 2014.

Mr. Avant also mentioned that additional funds, via the Oberstar Bill, were going to be used for 15 deck preservation projects, 25 moving ahead projects and 19 structure painting projects.

### 3. Evaluate and Update Bridge Team Workload

#### ***Municipal / Developer Submittal Guidelines***

Mr. Hanks mentioned there was ongoing work to update the submittal guidelines for items to be reviewed by the Structure Design Unit and noted BT initiative I-22. He stated that a group led by Jimmy Travis had met to discuss updating the guidelines for all disciplines. Being unsure of current status, Mr. Perfetti stated he would contact Jon Nance to determine whether the BT should become involved.

#### ***Preconstruction Bridge Training for Construction Personnel***

The need for training on the Sub Regional Design Guidelines and On-site Scoping process was discussed. The BT agreed that training should occur after the aforementioned pilot project scopings. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Goodwin agreed to take responsibility for planning and developing the training. It was suggested that the format be regional to account for specific conditions in those areas.

#### ***Current Work Group Efforts***

The BT discussed whether it was time to begin working on any other initiatives. It was decided that the current initiative list should first be purged and/or updated and prioritized. Then, at the January meeting the group will decide how to proceed.

Mr. Hanks committed to send a current version of the Initiative List as an attachment to the meeting minutes. Each BT member will be asked to review the list and recommend any revisions and then select their top five. Results will be tallied and discussed at the next BT meeting.

### 4. Plan Agenda for Next Meeting (January 21, 2009, 10:00am – 12:00 noon)

Tentative agenda items were identified:

- Prioritize Initiatives
- Progress of Drainage Work Group
- Preconstruction Bridge Training for Construction Personnel